

REMARKS

Election of Species Requirement

The Election of Species Requirement that was mailed on February 28, 2006, has been received and reviewed.

Two species of invention have been identified:

Species I: Claims 1-25, 57-78, and 79-82; and

Species II: Claims 26-78 and 83-93.

It was asserted in the Election of Species Requirement that claims 1-25, 57-78 and 79-82 read on the invention of Species I, while claims 26-78 and 83-93 read on the invention of Species II. Thus, claims 57-78 must be, *de facto*, generic to both species.

An election is hereby made, without traverse, to prosecution the invention of Species I, claims 1-25, 57-78 and 79-82.

Further, it is submitted that claim 1 and claim 57 are generic to both Species I and II.

In further response 1-25, 57-78 and 79-82, Applicants respectfully submit that the issuance of an election of species requirement is improper in the present instance, and that issuance of a restriction requirement between claims 1-25 and 79-82 and claims 26-56 and 83-93 (method claims 57-78 being common to both groups) would have been a more appropriate course of action, with claims 1-25 and 79-82 being characterized as a subcombination to the combination of claims 26-56 and 83-93. That being said, Applicants respectfully submit that restriction between claims 1 and 26 would not have been properly supported under combination/subcombination considerations for a proper restriction as set forth in the MPEP. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the election of species requirement and examination on the merits of all of claims 1 through 93.

Please Note Information Disclosure Statements

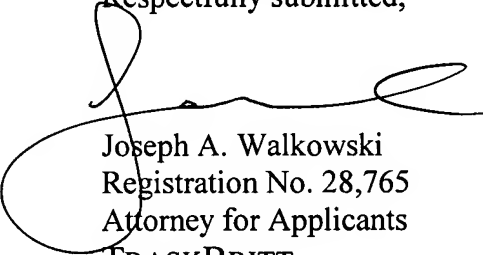
Applicants wish to draw the Examiner's attention to Information Disclosure Statements filed with the Office on March 22, 2004; February 9, 2005; July 13, 2005 and July 25, 2005, and respectfully request that the documents or other information referenced therein be made of record in the present application and that initialed copies of the PTO/SB/08A forms be returned to the

undersigned attorney evidencing same.

Should any of the documents, or portions thereof, be unavailable to the Examiner for any reason, please contact the undersigned attorney, who will supply same immediately by facsimile or other suitable method of delivery.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that each of claims 1-25, 57-78 and 79-82 be considered on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph A. Walkowski', is written over the typed name and address.

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